

Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 /135 W

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R 132000Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5580

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LAPAZ

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, LAFTA, BR

SUBJECT: GOV VIEWS ON LAFTA

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION, LAURO MOREIRA, FOREIGN TRADE
ADVISOR TO MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, COMMENTED TO
EMBOFF THAT AUGUST LAFTA MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES, WHICH HE
HAD ATTENDED, DID NOT RESULT IN ANY NEW PROGRESS TOWARD
MOVING LAFTA OUT OF THE DOLDRUMS THAT IT HAS BEEN IN FOR
SEVERAL YEARS. HE SAID MEETING WAS AN EXTREMELY ARDUOUS
ONE TAKEN UP MORE BY DISCUSSION OF INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES
OF THE ANDEAN PACT THAN BY DISCUSSION OF GENERAL ISSUES
CONCERNING ALL LAFTA COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT ANDEAN
COUNTRIES, WHICH PARTICIPATED AS A BLOC, HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY
IN ARRIVING AT ANY COMMON POSITIONS. HE SAID ONE POSITION
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THEY DID PRESENT WAS SUGGESTION THAT ANDEAN GROUP MAY WANT

TO WITHDRAW SOME LAFTA CONCESSIONS GRANTED IN THE PAST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO RESOLVE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITHIN THE GROUP. HE SAID BRAZILIAN REACTION WAS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL OF CONCESSIONS AND APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION FOR ANY SUCH WITHDRAWALS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION REGARDING RECENT ARTICLES IN BRAZILIAN PRESS THAT BUENOS AIRES MEETING HAD RESULTED IN SOME INITIATIVES THAT PROMISED A REVITALIZATION OF LAFTA, MOREIRA RESPONDED THAT SUCH ARTICLES OVERSTATED THE SITUATION. HE SAID THAT, IN GOB VIEW, THE ONLY REAL POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVED TRADING RELATIONS WITHIN LAFTA WOULD BE NEW INITIATIVES BASED ON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE LARGER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS BRAZIL AND MEXICO, ARE NOT PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT POSSIBLE NEW MEASURES IN THE MONETARY FIELD BECAUSE THEY ARE CREDITOR NATIONS AND WOULD EXPECT TO BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, THE CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPT ALSO TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING HAD NO POSITIVE RESULTS AND THAT THE GOB DID NOT EXPECT MUCH TO COME FROM THE QUITO MEETING IN LATE SEPTEMBER.
CRIMMINS

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